Discovery of Pre-Historic Caves in Gujarat

*69. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether pre-historic caves have been discovered at Tej Garh in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to discover pre-historic caves in Kumhrar in Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) and (b) In the granitic hill of Koraj near Tej Garh about 30 caves have been discovered by M.S. University of Baroda in December, 1992 some of which have been found to contain paintings made on the natural cave walls in varying states of preservation. The paintings are in monochrome red or white colour prepared possibly from red heamatite. The theme of the aintings include horse riders, dancing figures, animal figures such as horse and dog, symbols, such as swastika, in addition to the depiction of trees and other various crisscross desgins. Stone age tools have been collected from the base of the hill and none of the tools havt been recovered from the caves.

(c) No, Sir.

Implementation of the SAARC Plan for Girl Child

*70 SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the Miinster of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state the steps so far taken to implement the SAARC plan for girl child, indicating the extent to which the same has been implemented so far?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): As a fellow-up to tht SAARC frame work of the Decade Programme for the Girl Child, Government has finalised a National Plan of Action for the SAARC Decade of the Girl Child (1991-2000) in November, 1992. The implementation of the decadal plan has commenced and it involves continuous inter-ministerial effort. The first meeting of the Coordination Committee of Secretaries set-up to review and take follow-up action on it has already been held. All the States|UTs have been requested to draw their own Plans of Action and to constitute similar Coordination Committees at the States|UT level.

भूमिगत जल स्तर का गिर जाना

*71. **श्री सोम पाल :**
श्री शिवचरण सिंह :

क्या **जल संसाधन** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि

(क) क्या यह सच है कि गत कुछ वर्षों के दौरान देश के अधिकांश भागों में भूमिगत जल स्तर नीचे चला गया है, और

(ख) यदि हां, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं और इस संबंध में सरकार क्या कदम उठा रही है ?

जल संसाधन मंत्री तथा संसदीय कार्य मंत्री (श्री विद्याचरण शुक्ल) : (क) भूजल स्तर 2 मीटर तक गिरावट या बढ़ोत्तरी को सामान्य माना जाता है। देश के कुछ भागों में, पाकेटो/भागों और स्थानीय क्षेत्रों में भूजल स्तर में 4 मीटर से अधिक गिरावट पाई गई है।

(ख) भूजल के स्तर में कमी सामान्यतया स्थानीय पाकेटों में पाई जाती है इसके अलावा, किसी मौसम में भूजल स्तर गिरावट की स्थिति भिन्न है। चिन्ता के क्षेत्र वे पाकेट हैं, जहां लम्बे समय तक भूजल स्तर में गिरावट बनी रहती है। भूजल के स्तर में गिरावट एक प्राकृतिक घटना है जो अधिकतर वर्षापात से संबंधित होती है। मुख्य रूप से, स्तर में गिरावट भूजल अधिक निकालने के कारण तथा वर्षापात की मात्रा और इसके वितरण की भिन्नता की वजह से होती है। सरकार ने भूजल के कृत्रिम पुनर्भरण पर अध्ययन करने के लिए एक केन्द्रीय सेक्टर स्कीम स्वीकृत की है।

National Action Plan for Children's Education

*72. SHRI MOHD. MASUD KHAN:
SHRI SOM PAL:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state the steps so far taken to implement the National Plan of Action for Children's Education indicating the details of the Pan and the extent to which the same has been implemented so far?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): The National Plan of Action on Children drawn up by the Government identifies targets in terms of major as well as supporting sectoral goals representing the needs and aspirations of over 300 million children of the country in the sphere of health, nutrition, education and related aspects of social support. In the field of education it provides for the following:

(1) Universal enrolment of all children including girls using both full-time formal schools and part time nonformal arrangements.

(2) Reduction of drop out rate between classes I to V and I to VIII from the existing 45 per cent and 60 per cent to 20 per cent and 40 per cent respectively.

(3) Achievement of Minimum Levels of Learning by approximately all children at the primary level and introduction of this concept at the upper primary stage on a large scale.

(4) Reucation in disparities by emphasis on girls' education and special measures for children beloging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (SC/ST).

(5) Expansion of Early Childhood Care and Education including appropriate low cost family and community based interventions.

To achieve the goals laid down in the Plan of Action efforts will be made made to Universalise Integrated Child Development Services (IEDS). The process and content of elementary education will be made child-centred, activity-based and joyful. Access to elementary education will be ensured by opening non-formal education centres and voluntary schools in addition to formal schools. The Scheme of Operation Blackboard would be expanded and extended to upper primary schools. Achievement of Minimum Levels of Learning (MLL) by practically all the children is to be ensured. The impact of Total Literacy Campaigns (TLCs) on enhanced enrolment and retention would be suitably utilised. Involvement of community would be ensured at village and block levels.

Dumping of stocks by multinational Companies

*73. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

SHRI GAYA SINGH:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the SAIL and TISCO have pleaded with Government to take effective steps against dumping by the multinational companies which are saddled with heavy stocks; and